GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1896
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
ERADICATION OF CATARACT
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients of cataract are continuously increasing in the country;

(b) the number of such patients as on March 31, 1998, State- wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps for the eradication of this disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INPENDENT CHARGE) (SHI SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes, Sir. The number of patients with cataract are increasing due to increase in life expectancy.

(b) Records of patients suffering from cataract are not available. Estimated number of blind persons as per National Survey(1986-89) was 1.24 crores out of which about 80% were blind due to cataract. State-wise estimated blind persons is at Annexure-I.

(c) to (e): Steps taken by the Govt. to provide services to cataract patients include:

1. Assistance for performing cataract surgery in Government Hospitals;

2. GIA to NGOs @ Rs.400 for conventional surgery and Rs. 600 for Intraocular Lens (IOL) Cataract Surgery;

3. Provision of sutures and IOLs required for cataract surgery as commodity assistance;

4. Training of eye surgeons in IOL cataract surgery;

5. Identification of blind persons due to cataract and preparation of blind registers; and

6. Organization of eye camps to screen and treat patients suffering from cataract.

ANNEXURE - I

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1896 FOR 7TH MARCH, 2000

STATE-WISE PREVALENCE OF BLINDNESS AND ESTIMATED BLIND PERSONS

Census (1991) Code	State/UTs POP	Population	Prevalence/10000	Estimated Blind
WORLD BANK PROJECT STATES				
2	Andhra Pradesh	66508008	150	1088000
13	Madhya Pradesh	66181170	201	1322000
14	Nagarasgtra	78937187	164	1252000
19	Orissa	31659736	172	538000
21	Rajasthan	43997990	224	938000
23	Tamilnadu	55858946	165	922000
25	Uttar Pradesh	139112287	158	2098000

OTHER STATES

3	Arunachal Pradesh	864558	123	13500
4	Assam	22414322	134	300000
5	Bihar	86374465	128	1066000
31	Delhi	9420644	63	62000
6	Goa	1169793	203	25000
7	Gujarat	41309582	144	583000
8	Haryana	16463648	113	183000
9	Himachal Pradesh	5170877	87	45000
10	Jammu & Kashmir	7718700	280	211000
11	Karnataka	44977201	129	559000
12	Kerala	29098518	131	367000
15	Manipur	1837149	65	11000
16	Meghalaya	1774778	22	3000
17	Mizoram	689756	NA	
18	Nagaland	1209546	38	4000
20	Punjab	20281969	73	140000
22	Sikkim	406457	45	3000
24	Tripura	2757205	118	34000
26	West Bengal	68077965	96	654000
27	A & N Islands	280661	67	1900
28	Chandigarh	642015	189	11400
29	D & N aveli	138477	NA	
30	Daman & Diu	101586	NA	
32	Kajsgadweep	51707	89	400
33	Pondichrry	807785	NA	
TOTAL:		846294688		12435200

+ Source: WHO/GOI National Survey (1986-89)
++ Survey results projected for 1991 census population